



www.virtuscomm.com

SEARCH

ATBLOG



JUNE 11, 2016

Will convicted felon Mike Hubbard be like rapist Brock Turner?

This last week my news and social media feeds were full of opinions and images...

Share this:



THE LATEST FROM #ALPOLITICS

Martha Roby: Mental health, opioid bills advance

BY GUEST AUTHOR ON JULY 11, 2016

OPINION, SLIDER

Congress took big steps this past week toward enacting legislation critical to addressing a few key national issues: the opioid epidemic and gaps in mental health services.

Some weeks ago I relayed the good news that the House was working on a slate of bills aimed at combatting the growing heroin and opioid addiction epidemic facing our county. Drug overdoses account for as many as 47,000 deaths a year, and the number of those involving opioid prescription pain relievers has risen drastically over the last several years. Alabama is experiencing a particularly significant increase in opioid overdoses. Our state saw an almost 20 percent rise in opioid overdoses between 2013 and 2014, the last year full data is available, which was the fifth highest nationally.

I'm pleased to report that the House and Senate negotiated a final Conference Report on **S. 524**, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 that addresses these issues. This legislation will marshal the resources of the public and private sectors to better respond to opioid abuse and addiction. Of note, the bill:

- improves prevention and education efforts through the **Department of Health and Human Services**, the **Office of National Drug Control Policy** and the **National Institutes of Health**;
- enhances law enforcement capabilities by authorizing paid-for **Department of Justice** grants for drug fighting efforts that work;
- focuses attention on treatment and recovery by expanding access to addiction services and opioid overdose reversal drugs through the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**; and
- prioritizes services for veterans by improving drug policies, treatment offerings and patient advocacy efforts within the VA.

The House has passed the package and it now awaits final approval by the Senate.

HOME 2016 STATE INFLUENCE & POLICY OPINION WOMEN ATBLOG APOLITICAL

depression. Serious mental health problems that go unaddressed can manifest in dangerous ways, as we saw with the terrible tragedies that took place in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, Aurora, Colorado, and other places.

My colleague Rep. **Tim Murphy** has been crafting legislation that would address some of our nation's deficiencies in identifying and treating mental illness. **H.R. 2646**, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, seeks to reform the broken mental healthcare system by refocusing outdated programs, improving the effectiveness of grants, and removing federal barriers to care. It will take a lot of work to rebuild our nation's mental health network, but it must be done and this legislation is the first step. It passed by an overwhelming bi-partisan vote of 407-5 and now awaits

action in the Senate.

Preston Hornsby

Opioid addiction and mental health are two acute problems facing our country, and I'm pleased that Congress is taking action on smart legislation to address them.

...

Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama with her husband, Riley and their two children.

Share this:



SHARE.



RELATED POSTS



JULY 5, 2016

Richard Shelby to DOJ: Hillary Clinton is not above the law



JULY 4, 2016

Alabama 2016 Independence Day messages



JULY 1, 2016

Martha Roby: Benghazi report released

Profile

Sign in with Twitter Sign in with Facebook

or

Comment

Name

Not published

Email

Website

Post It

☐ Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

HOME

2016

STATE

INFLUENCE & POLICY

OPINION

WOMEN

ATBLOG

APOLITICAL

2 Replies

0 Comments

2 Tweets

0 Facebook

0 Pingbacks

Last reply was 20 hours



@PrestonHornsby

#alpolitics continues to entertain
twitter.com/WarOnDumb/stat...

10m



Engage South

@engage_south

Judiciary Committee to select special counsel for Bentley impeachment...read more in today's news brief.
engagesouth.com/dnb/july-12-20... #alpolitics

18m

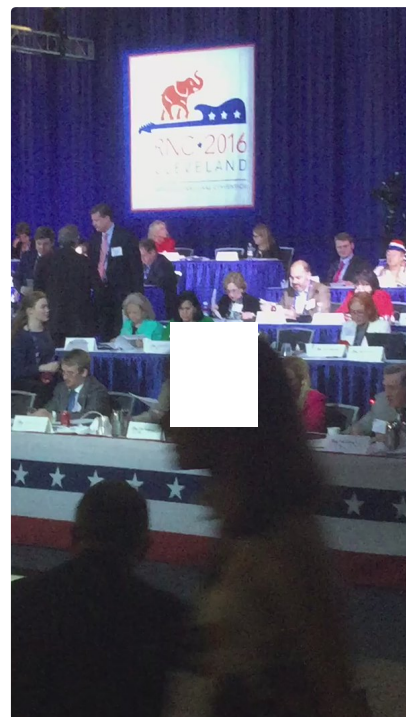
Goat Hill Observer Retweeted



Terry Lathan

@ChairmanLathan

#algotinple proud to hear AL delegate on platform committee Rep Jim Carns giving a report @ALGOP
#alpolitics



58m

View 20 hours

.RepMarthaRoby: Mental health, opioid bills advance <https://t.co/eSTkGmp3vt> #ALPolitics AlabamaToday #ALToday

Reply

Alabama Today will be the first place Alabamians of influence go for an inside look at breaking statewide, political and business news.

Led by Apryl Marie Fogel, a political activist with over a decade of experience, the Alabama Today team includes freelance news reporters, as well as guest columnists from around the state.

According to Fogel: "My biggest goal for Alabama Today is to provide up to the minute information that will influence the direction of our state. Alabama Today is a platform unlike any other in the state, where news is news and opinion is opinion. I'm excited to focus on two subject areas that I am passionate and dedicated to -- political news and opinions and recognizing and growing influential women."

Alabama Today is also the host of Context Alabama where voices of experience and influence statewide will regularly be published. Featuring Alabama's leading political consultants, grassroots leaders and influencers Context Alabama will provide commentary on the hottest topics.

RECENT TWEETS



AL Today
@AlabamaToday

Showtime's 'The Circus' is to politics what 'Inside the NFL' is to football wp.me/p6gXat-2VJ #ALPolitics

1h



AL Today
@AlabamaToday

Martin Dyckman: In wake of Bob McDonnell case, Congress needs to close bribery loophole wp.me/p6gXat-2VI #ALPolitics

1h



AL Today
@AlabamaToday

Poll: @HillaryClinton struggles to make inroads with young Americans wp.me/p6gXat-2VG #ALPolitics

1h



AL Today
@AlabamaToday

Jeff Sessions could be a good choice for @realDonaldTrump's VP wp.me/p6gXat-2VH #ALPolitics

2h



AL Today
@AlabamaToday

Sweet Meteor of Death (@smod2016) campaign rolling on empty promises wp.me/p6gXat-2VA #ALPolitics

15h

SEND US A TIP

Name

First

Last

Email

Message

Submit

Copyright 2016 - ALToday.com | All Rights Reserved. | [Login](#)

[HOME](#)

[2016](#)

[STATE](#)

[INFLUENCE & POLICY](#)

[OPINION](#)

[WOMEN](#)

[ATBLOG](#)

[APOLITICAL](#)